

crease of 3.0 percent allows an amount equal to 0.7 percent of payroll for locality pay.

Accordingly, I have determined that:

Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments in the amounts set forth on the attached table shall be effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1997. When compared with the payments currently in effect, these comparability payments will increase the General Schedule payroll by about 0.7 percent.

Finally, the law requires that I include in this report an assessment of how my decisions will affect the Government's ability to recruit and retain well-qualified employees. While I regret that our fiscal situation does not permit granting Federal employees a higher locality pay increase, I do not believe this will have any material impact on the quality of our workforce. Under the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994, and our efforts to reinvent Federal programs, the number of Federal employees is falling substantially. As a result, hiring and attrition are very low. In addition, as the need arises, the Government can use many pay tools—such as recruitment bonuses, retention allowances, and special salary rates—to maintain the high quality workforce that serves our Nation so very well.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 16

The President had a telephone conversation with President Nelson Mandela of South Africa concerning the situation in Zaire.

November 17

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia concerning reentry of the failed Russian Mars space probe with a predicted impact point in east central Australia.

November 18

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Honolulu, HI, to Sydney, Australia, arriving the following day.

The President declared an emergency in Hawaii and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding on November 5 and continuing.

November 19

The President announced his intention to appoint Marc D. Guthrie to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The President declared a major disaster in New Jersey and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding October 18–23.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding October 19–20.

The President declared an emergency in Rhode Island and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area affected by a water main break on November 18.

November 20

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Canberra, Australia.

Later, the President met with Governor General Sir William Deane of Australia in Government House. He then met with Prime Minister John Howard in Parliament House.

In the afternoon, the President met with Member of Parliament and opposition leader Kim Beazley in Parliament House. In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton

returned to Sydney, where they attended a dinner and harbor cruise aboard the *MV Aussie Legend*.

November 21

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Port Douglas, Australia.

The White House announced that Lanny J. Davis will join the White House Counsel's office as Special Counsel, effective December 9, to serve as press spokesman on certain legal issues, including those relating to the Whitewater and Travel Office investigations and to recent questions regarding campaign contributions.

The President declared an emergency in Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area affected by a gas leak explosion on November 21.

The White House announced that the President invited President Eduardo Frei of Chile to the White House for a state visit on February 26.

November 22

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton visited the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland, Australia. They returned to Port Douglas in the evening.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Released November 17

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on reentry of the Russian Mars space probe

Released November 21

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the appointment of Lanny J. Davis as Special Counsel in the Counsel's Office at the White House

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the upcoming visit of President Eduardo Frei of Chile

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.